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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/053,387	01/17/2002	Jian Ling Ding	17644-68	1539

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EXAMINER

GHALI, ISIS A D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1615

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/053,387

Applicant(s)

DING ET AL.

Examiner

Isis Ghali

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,3,5-8,10,13 and 18-31 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 9, 11, 12, 14-17, 32-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The receipt is acknowledged of applicants' amendment, both filed 10/06/2005.

Claims 1-3 and 5-38 are pending.

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 13, 18-31 have been withdrawn from consideration, being drawn to nonelected invention.

Claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 14-17, and 32-38 are included in the prosecution.

1. This application contains claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 13, 18-31 drawn to a nonelected invention. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. Claims 1, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 32, 34-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,335,026 ('026).

US '026 disclosed an adhesive composition for application to the skin as an adhesive bandage and tape (col.1, lines 7-11; col.3, lines 50-55). The composition comprises ethylene-propylene-diene monomer terpolymer wherein the ratio of ethylene

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to propylene is 3:1, i.e. 75% ethylene and 25% propylene (col.2, lines 57-61). The composition comprises up to 20% of silica, which disclosed by applicants as hydrophilic particles (col.4, lines 9-10; col.6, lines 31-32). The composition further comprises polyisobutylene, styrene block copolymer in an amount of 25-42%, elastomer stabilizer, pigments, and anti-oxidants which read on the active agent disclosed by applicants (col.2, lines 20-33, 42-44; col.3, lines 30-33; col.5, lines 27-29; col.5, examples I-III).

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 10/06/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The main gist of applicants' argument against the anticipatory rejection is that US '026 does not disclose hydrocolloid. Applicants argue that the disclosed hydrocolloid of the invention namely has high fluid absorbency, while the adhesive bandages and tapes are generic class in which hydrocolloids can be included.

In response to these arguments, the examiner position is that US '026 reference clearly disclosed EPDM having the same ratios of ethylene : propylene that is included into adhesive composition useful for bandages and tapes. The reference further disclosed the adhesive composition comprising silica (col.4, line 9). The examiner is pointing out to page 6, paragraph 0033 of the present disclosure, wherein applicants disclose hydrophilic particles that provide the water absorbing property to the adhesive composition, and these hydrophilic particles include silica. Therefore, the reference disclosed composition comprising EPDM and hydrophilic particles that provide the hydrophilicity and hydrocolloidal property to the composition. All the elements of the

composition are disclosed by the reference, and the reference clearly anticipates the rejected claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US '026 in view of US 5,750,134 ('134).

The teachings of US '026 are discussed above. However, US '026 does not expressly teach the butyl rubber as a stabilizer, but recognized the addition of stabilizer to the composition comprising EPDM.

The specific stabilizer claimed by applicant does not impart patentability to the claims, absent evidence to the contrary.

US '134 teaches adhesive composition that is suitable for delivering systemically and locally active agents, wherein the composition comprises elastomeric component such as butyl rubber (abstract; col.3, lines 5-15; col.4, lines 50-65). The elastomeric component renders the ultimate composition be worn comfortably by the user and the composition does not exhibit excessive cold flow when stored at room temperature (col.4, lines 42-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to deliver the adhesive composition comprising EPDM and elastomer as disclosed by US '026 and replace the stabilizer by the butyl rubber disclosed by US '134, motivated by the teaching of US '134 that the elastomeric component renders the ultimate composition be worn comfortably by the user and the

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composition does not exhibit excessive cold flow when stored at room temperature, with reasonable expectation of having adhesive composition comprising EPDM and butyl rubber that is worn comfortable by the user that exhibits minimal cold flow.

4. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US '026 in view of US 6,805,961 (961).

The teachings of US '026 are discussed above. However, US '026 does not expressly teach the composition further comprises ethylene propylene elastomer, but recognized the addition to elastomer to the composition comprising EPDM.

The specific claimed elastomer does not impart patentability to the claims, absent evidence to the contrary.

US '961 teaches an adhesive tape comprising amorphous polyolefin based on propylene that provides improved relaxation properties and flexibility of the tape (col.6, lines 1-10).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to deliver the adhesive composition comprising EPDM and elastomer as disclosed by US '026 and replace the elastomer by the amorphous propylene based polyolefin disclosed by US '961, motivated by the teaching of US '961 that the amorphous propylene based polyolefin provides improved relaxation properties and flexibility of the tape, with reasonable expectation of having adhesive composition comprising EPDM and amorphous propylene based polyolefin that has improved relaxation properties and flexibility.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 10/06/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicants traverse the obviousness rejection of claims 16 over US '134 and claim 33 over US '961 by arguing that no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established.

In response to this argument, the examiner position is that a conclusion of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) does not require absolute predictability, only a reasonable expectation of success; and references are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosure. *In re Bozek*, 163 USPQ 545 (CCPA 1969). US '134 is relied upon for the sole teaching of the suitability of butyl rubber in compositions applied to the skin. US '134 teaches that such elastomeric component renders the ultimate composition be worn comfortably by the user and the composition does not exhibit excessive cold flow when stored at room temperature, and this teaching would have motivated one having ordinary skill in the art to add elastomeric component to adhesive skin composition disclosed by US '026. US '961 is relied upon for the sole teaching of suitability of propylene in skin adhesive compositions. US '961 teaches that the amorphous propylene based polyolefin provides improved relaxation properties and flexibility of the tape, and this teaching would have motivated one skilled in the art to replace the elastomer disclosed by US '026 by amorphous propylene based polyolefin as disclosed by US '961. In the light of the foregoing discussion, the Examiner's ultimate legal conclusion is that the subject matter

defined by the claims would have been obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 103 (a), and a *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isis Ghali whose telephone number is (571) 272-0595. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman Page can be reached on (571) 272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Isis Ghali
Examiner
Art Unit 1615

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